

Lake Michigan Tournament Fishing



Economic Impacts to Coastal Communities

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Even during a time of declining participation in Great Lakes fishing, interest in tournament fishing for salmon and trout remains high. Tournaments attract anglers who compete in events and also appeal to non-anglers who enjoy the festival atmosphere.

Tournament Angler Demographics

Captains who fished in salmon and trout tournaments answered a survey distributed at tournaments during 2009.

- Surveys were returned by 176 captains who participated in tournaments in Michigan and Wisconsin.
- The average team consisted of a captain and 4.6 anglers; 1.1 non-anglers also travelled with the fishing team.
- Most captains (89%) did not include paying customers on their tournament teams.

Grand Haven Salmon Festival

The three-day Salmon Festival included live music, wine and salmon tasting, and children’s activities such as a salmon fishing simulator. Recreational fishing provided a focal point for the festival, but the majority of economic impacts were generated by 1,061 tourists who travelled to participate in festival events but did not fish in the Big King Contest. The example of the Grand Haven Salmon Festival demonstrates how communities can leverage interest in fishing to benefit local economies and encourage connections to the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Event	Gross Sales	Employment Hours
Big King Contest	\$33,198	833
Other Festival Events	\$578,168	16,876
TOTAL	\$611,366	17,709

Economic Impacts of Lake Michigan Tournaments to Coastal Communities in 2009

The 16 events of the 2009 Lake Michigan Tournament Trail included 1,019 fishing teams, 5,706 anglers, and 1,121 non-anglers who attended tournaments. Most (71%) of these people were not residents of the port community that hosted the tournament they attended. Details of estimated economic impacts are provided in the full project report (O’Keefe and Miller 2010).

Expenditure Category	Spending Per Team	Gross Sales	Employment Hours
Hotels, motels, B&Bs, camping	\$204.35	\$273,412	6,120
Dock fees	\$160.87	\$231,143	5,744
Fuel for boat	\$338.35	\$64,316	1,535
Fuel for automobiles/trucks	\$108.48	\$20,621	492
Boat/marine expenditures other than fuel	\$64.13	\$25,522	634
Auto/truck expenditures other than fuel	\$63.93	\$23,931	456
Groceries and liquor stores	\$134.79	\$53,844	1,439
Restaurants and taverns	\$154.91	\$58,773	1,564
Fishing equipment	\$134.52	\$73,607	2,694
Souvenirs and shopping	\$27.35	\$8,201	216
Entertainment	\$24.56	\$9,870	273
Other	\$20.32	\$8,874	221
TOTAL	\$1,436.56	\$852,113	21,386

Additional resources available at project website: <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/fisheries/economics/tournament>